



Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

179 W. Three Mile Road
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Ph: 906-632-0043

Fax: 906-632-1141

RESOLUTION 12-17-09

PROTECT GREAT LAKES WATERSHED FROM ASIAN CARP

WHEREAS, the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) represents five federally recognized Indian Tribes to foster wise management and use of their Great Lakes commercial and subsistence fishery resources, and inland hunting, fishing and gathering rights. The CORA member Tribes are the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians;

WHEREAS, in the Treaty of Washington of March 28, 1836 (7 Stat. 491), the CORA Tribes reserved the right to hunt, fish, and gather throughout the large portions of Lakes Michigan, Superior, and Huron, and the 13,921,762 acres of land ceded to the United States in that Treaty in the area that would become the State of Michigan in 1837. These Treaty rights are absolutely essential to the Tribes and their members from a political, social, economic, cultural and subsistence perspective;

WHEREAS, the United States, as trustee to the CORA Tribes', sought to protect the Tribes' Great Lakes and inland Treaty rights by filing suit in 1973 in *United States v. State of Michigan*, 2:73-CIV-26 (WD MI), and the United States and Tribes have litigated and negotiated throughout the past 3 ½ decades to protect these Treaty rights. In 1979, the Court held that the Tribes continue to have the right under the 1836 Treaty to allow their members to fish on the Great Lakes for commercial and subsistence purposes. The Court entered consent decrees in 1985 and 2000 to govern management of the Great Lakes fishery. In 2007 the Court entered a consent decree permanently recognizing the Tribes' inland Treaty rights;

WHEREAS, if the species of Asian Carp currently migrating up the Mississippi River basin enters and establishes in the Great Lakes, their presence will undermine the entire Great Lakes ecosystem, including the Lakes and tributary river systems, and decimate the Tribes' commercial and subsistence Treaty fishery;

WHEREAS, evidence now exists that the Asian Carp have breached the electronic barriers in the Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal;

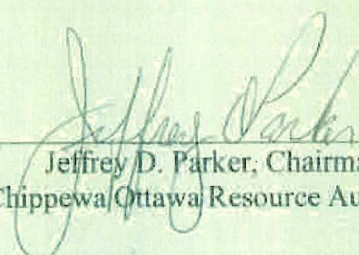
CORA Resolution 12-17-09
Protect Great Lakes Watershed From Asian Carp

WHEREAS, the destruction of the Great Lakes ecosystem that would be caused by the migration and proliferation of the Asian Carp would amount to a defacto termination of the CORA Tribes' Treaty fishing rights that the United States and Tribes have fought to protect for almost four decades;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority demands that the Army Corp of Engineers and all involved federal and state agencies take immediate action to close the Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal and any other constructed waterway by which the watersheds of the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes are connected, and ensure that permanent impenetrable barriers are maintained to prevent introduction of the Asian Carp and other non-native species into the Great Lakes, and CORA urges enactment of federal legislation to permanently close the canals.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Chairman of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a duly called, noticed and convened meeting on the 17th day of December, 2009, with a quorum present and with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining and 0 absent.



Jeffrey D. Parker, Chairman
Chippewa/Ottawa Resource Authority